

Orkney Islands Council

Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure

The Orkney Islands Council (Various Streets in Kirkwall) (Prohibition of Driving) Order 2025

Council's Reasons for Proposing to Make Order

The Council proposes to introduce a traffic order which will prohibit the driving of motor vehicles on the following roads between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily, and 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. daily.

- Bridge Street, Kirkwall.
- Albert Street, Kirkwall.
- Laing Street, Kirkwall.

And prohibit driving of motor vehicles on the following roads 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- Bridge Street Wynd, Kirkwall.
- St Olaf's Wynd, Kirkwall.

The reasons for proposing to make the order are given below:

- Maintenance costs associated with the flagstones on Bridge Street and Albert Street continue to be a burden on the revenue budget. Reducing the volume of traffic using the street would result in less maintenance.
- The current Prohibition of Driving Order prohibits vehicles from driving on Bridge Street, Albert Street and Laing Street with several exceptions for permit holders and blue badge holders which leaves this order open to interpretation and abuse by drivers who access these streets without meeting the required criteria.
- On 10 September 2024, following a request to close Bridge Street, Kirkwall, on Friday and Saturday nights, the Development and Infrastructure Committee recommended that the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure should undertake public engagement and report the outcome to the Development and Infrastructure Committee, prior to commencing statutory consultation in respect of introducing a new Prohibition of Driving Order.
- Officers worked closely with Sustrans to carry out public engagement, including an online survey, using the Commonplace platform, and on-street engagement with the public and local businesses.
- A report was prepared following the public engagement and concluded that there was strong support for initiatives to prioritise pedestrian safety, whilst also

recognising the need to maintain access for businesses, residents and those with mobility issues.

- There were 208 individual responses to the survey, with 60% of responses agreeing that making Bridge Street and Albert Street car-free during specific times would be beneficial.
- At the Development and Infrastructure Committee on 4 February 2025, elected members noted that the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure should commence statutory consultation in respect of introducing a new Prohibition of Driving Order covering Bridge Street, Albert Street, Laing Street, St Olaf's Wynd and Bridge Street Wynd, Kirkwall. And that the permanent closure of St Olaf's Wynd and Bridge Street Wynd, Kirkwall, would be included in any prohibition of driving order.



Corporate Director

19 May 2025